

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Hope Laverne Bishop Gamble,)
)
Certificate 189840)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 9, 2005. On September 21, 2005, the State Department of Education (Department) sent to Hope Laverne Bishop Gamble a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Gamble received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Gamble did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Gamble's certificate until she repays her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Gamble holds a valid certificate and has over seven years of teaching experience. On November 10, 2001, Ms. Gamble signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that agreement was that Ms. Gamble agreed to repay the \$2300 if she did not properly withdraw from the NBPTS process, nor submit the required portfolio to NBPTS, within the specified time frames. Ms. Gamble did neither and has not repaid the \$2300. CERRA and the State Department of Education sent several

letters to Ms. Gamble informing her that the \$2300 was now due and of the consequences for failing to repay the amount due.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Gamble's certificate 189840 from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her financial obligation in the amount of \$2300 to the State of South Carolina, as established in the loan agreement referenced above. Upon payment of the \$2,300.00, if Ms. Gamble wishes to have her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification of the Department of Education.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 9, 2005